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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History.—April 5.—The following paper was read by Professor George Lincoln Goodale: "On some aspects of Australian vegetation." It was illustrated with stereopticon views.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary.*

New York Academy of Sciences. Biological Section.—March 13, 1893.—Professor T. D. Quackenbos, in a paper on the Saibling of Lake Sunapee, distinguishes, in this, a fourth variety of New England Charr, demonstrating that the present abundance of this *Salvelinus* is accounted for not from its introduction and natural increase, but from destruction of inimical forms within recent years which has given a greater available food supply. Professor G. S. Huntington, on "Anomalies of Pectoralis major and minor," referred to the value of these as often presenting reversions. He emphasized the evolutionary tendency in man to proximalization of the points of attachment of the shoulder muscle group, referred to cleavage variations in anterior portion of brachiocephalic sheet, and compared these with ontogenetic characters in Anthropoids. Human anomalies in this group are best interpreted by Cynocephaloids, and not by the higher forms. Professor E. B. Wilson, "On Regeneration and the Mosaic Theory of Development," presented a brief critique on the latest results of Rous and Weissman.

BASHFORD DEAN, *Secretary.*

Natural Science Association of Staten Island.—February 18.—A series of twenty photographs of Staten Island trees were shown by Dr. N. L. Britton—duplicates of the set taken by Mr. Romeyn B. Hough, for the State Forestry exhibit at the Columbian Exposition, as mentioned at the meeting of October 15, 1892.

Mr. Joseph C. Thompson stated that since the last meeting he had made another bacteriological examination of the Crystal Water Company's water, from a sample taken from a hydrant at the corner of New York Avenue and Cliff Street, and found 185 individual bacteria per cubic centimetre. The temperature of the water was 34° Far. As previously stated, the New York City Croton water contains about 12,000 per cubic centimetere.

Mr. Arthur Hollick presented a piece of ferruginous sandstone, containing impressions of dicotyledonous leaves. The specimen resembles those found in the Drift, at Tottenville and Princes Bay, which are known to be derived from the Cretaceous clays. The specimen in question, however, was found as a Drift rock on the Serpentine hills, to the north of the Cretaceous area. It is possible that it may have been brought to the place where it was found by human agency, but if not, its occurrence there is more or less of a problem which future discoveries may solve. It is desired, at present, merely to place the fact upon record.

The Biological Society of Washington.—March 11.—The following communications were made: Dr. Frank Baker, "Recent Discoveries in the Nervous System;" Mr. Vernon Bailey, "The Burrow of the Five-toed Kangaroo-Rat;" Mr. E. M. Hasbrouck, "The Breeding of the Bald Eagle near Mount Vernon"—with exhibition of Eggs.

March 25.—The following communications were made: Mr. L. M. McCormick, "A Hybrid between *Pyranga rubra* and *Pyranga erythromelas*;" Prof. E. W. Doran, "Development of the Intestine of Tadpoles;" Dr. Theobald Smith, "The Bacteriology of Potomac Water and its Bearing on Sanitary Problems;" Mr. B. T. Galloway, "Experiments in Preventing Rusts Affecting Cereals."

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary.*

Anthropological Society of Washington.—Feb. 21.—The following papers were read: "The Foundation of the Zuni Cult," Mrs. Matilda Coxe Stevenson; "Dual Civic Functions: a study in the evolution of institutions," Miss Katie Foote; "Early Man in the Mississippi Valley," Mr. Thomas Wilson.

WESTON FLINT, *Sec'y Board of Managers.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

At the meeting of the Geographical Club in the Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, it was announced that the result of the balloting among the members of the club upon the question of active co-operation in the proposed new expedition to the Arctic regions under the lead of Lieut. R. E. Peary, stood in favor of the project.